

SULGRAVE,

BANBURY.

February 18th 1905.

To the Members of the Middleton Cheney Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my second Annual Report upon the Sanitary condition, Public Health, and other matters of the Middleton Cheney Rural District for the year ending 31st December 1904.

I take this opportunity of pointing out to the Members of the Council that unless the Registrars of Births for the District are allowed to furnish me with particulars as to the Births in each separate Village, it is impossible for me to make the returns as required by the Local Government Board. I have succeeded in obtaining them for the past year, but am given to understand that in future I can not expect these returns to be made unless the Registrars have permission to do so.

The District is a purely agricultural one, with a probable decreasing population. The Homes of the Working Classes are distinctly poor, with few conveniences, and consisting of chiefly antiquated structures. Many are in a bad state of repair, although I am not aware that there are any actually unfit for habitation, neither have any been declared to be permanently so during the past year. Generally speaking there is a sufficiency of open space around them and there has been no case of over-crowding reported in the District. No new houses have been erected.

I have nothing to report as to any alteration concerning the disposal of sewage and refuse in the District. There being no regular sewage system connected with either accumulation or removal. The Main Sewers have however worked satisfactorily, although it was found necessary to again repair those in Upper Boddington and Middleton Cheney. I cannot observe that there is any improvement in the disposal of house refuse and excrement. Being an Agricultural neighbourhood, with a large percentage of poor people amongst the population it is practically impossible for them either to obtain or utilize any other method of disposing of their house refuse except in the garden or on the land and excrement is covered in ashpits and privy vaults.

The Water supply throughout the District is good. There have been no



complaints as to permanent shortness or pollution, received during the past year. It has however been found necessary to repair the Water Works at Lower Boddington and considerable improvements have been made with the supply at Chipping Warden.

Public Slaughter houses and Public Bake houses have been inspected and have been found, with one exception, to be in a very satisfactory condition. The exception referred to applies to a slaughter house at Upper Boddington which the Landlord will have either put in proper repair or done away with completely.

There are no Factories or offensive trades carried on in the District and sources of Milk supply are on the whole well kept.

Forty seven cases of Nuisances have been dealt with during the year, which number was made up as follows:- Defective and untrapped drains 10. Defective water supply 8, Foul privies and defective accommodation 3, Accumulations of ashes and manure 9, Animals kept so as to be a nuisance 3, Nuisances relating to Bakehouses and slaughter houses 5, During the past year it has not been found necessary to take proceedings for the abatement of any nuisance, and I understand that the above have or will be remedied.

In the Middleton Cheney Rural District there are no methods of dealing with Infectious diseases. There is no Isolation Hospital, neither is there any provision made for the disinfection of infected clothing.

Five case of Infectious diseases have been reported to me. All these were cases of Scarlet Fever, occurring in the Parish of Chipping Warden. No other diseases under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act have been reported during the past year. I am informed there has been an epidemic of Whooping Cough in the Villages of Upper and Lower Boddington since Autumn. Owing to the complete absence of Medical evidence on this matter and the disease not coming under the heading of the Infectious Diseases Act I did not feel justified in advising the Managers to close the School, on my official certificate,

Semanty Births have been registered in the District during the past year. Thirty six Males and Thirty four Females. Two Births were registered at Warkworth, Twenty at Middleton Cheney, Twelve at Chalcombe Six at Chipping Warden, Five at Edgcote and Appletree combined, Eight



at Aston-le-Walls, Eleven at Upper Boddington, and Six at Lower Boddington.

This is an increase of eighteen on the previous year, and gives a Birth rate of 28.99 per 1000.

Forty deaths have been registered during the past year, being an increase of six on the previous year. Sixteen occurred at Middleton Cheney Five at Chalcombe, Six at Chipping Warden, Four at Edgcote and Appletree combined, Two at Aston-le-Walls, Three at Upper Boddington, and Four at Lower Boddington. This mortality gives a Death rate of 16.57 for all ages, and for children under one year a rate per 1000 births registered of 157.14. Eleven deaths occurred under one year, one death between one and five years, one death between five and fifteen years, fifteen deaths between twenty five and sixtyfive years, and twelve deaths at sixty five and upwards. Six death were due to Heart disease, four to Pneumonia, three to Cancer, and one each to the following causes viz, Whooping Cough, Phthisis, Plurisy and another disease of the Respiratory organs. There were also twenty three deaths from old age and other causes.

There has been during the past year a considerable increase both in the general and infantile mortality, but this has been somewhat compensated by the increased birth rate.

The District continues to maintain a healthy condition.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. J. Johnson

Medical Officer of Health.

